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Letter dated 16 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you hereinafter a list of persistent Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon committed from 5 to 11 October 2003.

Violations of airspace

At 0420 hours on 5 October 2003 eight Israeli military aircraft entered Lebanese airspace from the sea, six of them from off Shikka and two from off Batrun. They all flew east as far as the Baalbek region and from there towards the south, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1085 and 1150 hours on 8 October 2003 two Israeli military aircraft flew north over the Kafr Killa region, breaking the sound barrier over the city of Beirut and flying as far as Al-Arz (the Cedars). They were then followed by two military aircraft flying east over the sea off Byblos. The four aircraft circled over Shikka and the Cedars, then flew south. They thus violated Lebanese airspace.

Between 1945 hours and 0240 hours on the night of 8 to 9 October 2003 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew from 12 miles out at sea off the mouth of the Zahrani River to the town of Jazzin and from there to Baruk Mountain, over which it circled, then north to the Dahr al-Baydar area, over which it also circled. At 0209 hours the said aircraft disappeared from the radar screen, then reappeared over the Damur area and flew back towards the south. It thus violated Lebanese airspace.

Between 0155 and 0800 hours on 9 October 2003 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew east over the sea opposite the Zahrani River area, proceeded to the Dahr al-Baydar area and then headed towards the sea in the vicinity of Damur, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0700 and 1404 hours on the same day, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the Zahrani River area in an easterly direction and circled over the

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regions of Baruk Mountain, Dahr al-Baydar, Chtaura and Jubb Jannin, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1630 and 2320 hours on the same day an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew in an easterly direction over the Damur area, proceeded to Baruk and circled over the area between Baruk and Dahr al-Baydar, then proceeded to the Majdal Anjar area and circled over Barr Elias, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 2140 and 0415 hours on the night of 9 to 10 October 2003 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the Bint Jubayl area in a northerly direction to the Iqlim al-Kharrub region, circled over it and proceeded north 5 miles east of Damur and disappeared from the radar screen. It then reappeared heading east over the sea off Damur at a distance of four miles from the coast, flew to the Dahr al-Baydar area, headed west and once again disappeared from the radar screen. It next appeared five miles west of Sidon heading in an easterly direction and proceeded to Dahr al-Baydar, then flew towards the Baabda and Beirut areas, where it circled at an altitude of 300 feet, then circled over the Na`imah and Damur areas. It thus violated Lebanese airspace.

Between 0335 and 0720 hours on 10 October 2003 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew north over the sea off Sidon at a distance of 11 miles from the coast, reaching the coast at Damur, whereupon it circled over the coast between Beirut and Na`imah, disappearing from the radar screen at a distance of four miles from the coast off Na`imah and Damur and reappearing over the sea off Damur at a distance of 10 miles from the coast, heading south. It thus violated Lebanese airspace.

Between 0638 and 1120 hours on the same day an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew north over the sea opposite the Naqurah area at an altitude of 35,000 feet, circling over the Na`imah and Damur areas. It then headed north to Ra's Beirut, circled over Ra's Beirut and the United States Embassy in Awkar and proceeded to an area east of Sidon. It also circled over the Hazimiyah, Awkar and Ra's Beirut areas. It thus violated Lebanese airspace.

Between 1035 and 1815 hours on the same day, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew north over the sea 10 miles off Tyre and made a circle between Jounieh and Khaldah, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1815 and 2215 hours on the same day a reconnaissance aircraft flew over the sea in a northerly direction off Naqurah at a distance of 10 miles from the coast and made a circle between Khaldah and Jounieh at a distance of five miles over the mainland, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Violations of territorial waters

At 2210 hours on 5 October 2003, in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired a flare bomb over the water.

At 1050 hours on 6 October 2003, in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah, an Israeli military boat fired a number of rounds from medium-sized guns over the water.

At 2244 hours on 8 October 2003, an Israeli military boat fired a flare bomb over the water in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah.

At 1230 hours on 9 October 2003 an Israeli military boat fired a number of rounds from medium-sized guns in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah.

Between 1715 and 2105 hours on 10 October 2003 an Israeli military boat fired a flare bomb and a number of machine-gun rounds in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah.

At 0730 hours on 11 October 2003 an Israeli military boat fired a number of rounds from medium-sized weapons in the direction of occupied Palestinian territorial waters off Ra's Naqurah.

Acts of aggression in the field

At 1729 hours on 6 October 2003, Israeli enemy forces fired a number of rounds from various machine guns from an orchard in the occupied territory opposite the Kafr Killa-Udaysah road in the direction of the said road, causing material damage to passing vehicles, including a vehicle belonging to the international interim force, though no human losses resulted.

These acts of aggression reaffirm Israel's hostile attitude, and the nature and number of these unjustified and inexcusable violations and acts of aggression confirm Israel's premeditated intent to threaten and provoke and to disrupt security and stability in order to serve its aggressive, expansionist objectives throughout the region.

The Mission of Lebanon, in drawing the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the gravity and possible consequences of such acts of aggression, requests to have this letter of complaint circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative